

4th ASIA INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

8-9 December 2018

Langkawi International Convention Centre, Langkawi, Malaysia

Last date for registration
15 November 2018

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Future of Marketing and Management

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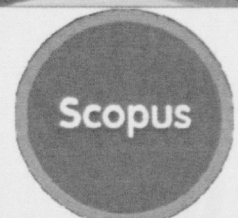
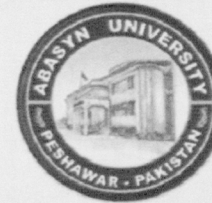
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4th ASIA International Conference 2018 (AIC2018)

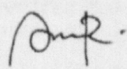
Acceptance of Abstract

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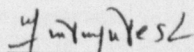
Dear YAKUP MOHD RAFEE,

I am pleased to inform you that your abstract entitled **Batuh Narit Arur Bilit of Pa' Umor: A Visual Analysis onto a Carved Stone from the Megalithic Monuments of the Kelabit Highlands** has been accepted for oral presentation in **4th ASIA International Conference 2018 (AIC2018)** after peer review by the editorial board (AIC2018). Please note that the conference will be held on 8-9 December 2018 at Langkawi International Convention Centre (LICC), Langkawi, Malaysia. You are hereby requested to upload full paper along with payment proof at <http://portal.connectingasia.org/> within 14 days. Participants who can't ensure their presences at conference venue are allowed to present virtually through **video conferencing using Skype**. This paper will be published in an SCOPUS / ISI Indexed journal as mentioned in the conference website (see link for detail).

For future correspondence, use this **AIC-2018-GDHEC-376** as reference. If you have any queries, feel free to contact any of the undersigned accordingly.



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Batuh Narit Arur Bilit of Pa' Umor: A Visual Analysis onto a Carved Stone from the Megalithic Monuments of the Kelabit Highlands

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Abstract

This paper explains on the Kelabit's material culture based on a visual archaeological study of the megalithic stone, particularly carved stone known as Batuh Narit Arur Bilit, from the district of Pa' Umor in Bario, Sarawak, Malaysia. The study will highlight several issues pertaining to the visual documentation process of the megalith, notably on the relation of the symbol and drawing carved on the surface of the stone. By using empirical research, the biography of these monuments will be explored via experiential learning and visual analysis, especially in considering our visual sensory with practical experience for a deeper understanding. These findings are the result of visual recording activities such as drawing, photography and video as well as site observations, with the highlight of the discovery of the long-lost stone carvings. What started as an unintentional discovery has evolved into a rich visual study of the cultural narratives and has developed as a cultural identity that also has a historical impact on the Kelabit society.

Keywords: Material Culture; Batu Narit; Megalith; Kelabit Highlands; Visual Analysis

1 Introduction

Bario, a remote village located on the Kelabit Highlands in the northeast of Sarawak and close to the Sarawak-Kalimantan border. Today, many traditions such as funeral feast rituals called *irau* have been extinct. Although most of the megalithic stones associated with the Kelabit tradition have been destroyed or extinct, but there are still some dolmens, urns, stone carvings and ossuaries that have been used in custom such as funerals to be found today (Janowski, 2003). The researcher had an opportunity to study one of the megaliths in the Kelabit Highlands known as *Batuh Narit Arur Bilit* at Pa' Umor. Bario, Sarawak. This paper seeks to explain the biography of the stone and interpret the drawing that has been carved on the stone and look at its connection with the folklore tales that has been handed down by their forefathers. This study is to reinforce the suggested time appearance, and to suggest the purpose of the stone and the possible nature of the persons commemorated on it as explained by (Clancy, 1993).

1.1 Batuh Narit Arur Bilit

Batuh Narit which means 'stone carving' in Kelabit is a common sight found in the Kelabit Highlands. In Kelabit, the word *Batuh* means 'rock or stone', while *Narit* means 'carved.' Arur Bilit is a small stream located on the east of Pa' Umor village. Batuh Narit Arur Bilit therefore means, 'the carved stone of the Bilit stream'. This stone, which is 15 minutes' walk from the Pa' Umor village is one of the prominent carved stones found in the Kelabit Highlands. It is located in a currently uncultivated paddy field, along the Bilit stream. The stone monument is approximately 4.5 meters high and is carved with a sunken relief (incised drawing) on the surface with its bearing facing north. The carver of this mysterious figurine is unknown. The local story suggests it was incised by a well-known hunter and the drawing is of himself and his dog with 26-line markers. Possibly the lines represent the number of heads of defeated enemies or the number of animals he has hunted during his hunting trip.



Figure 1. *Batuh Narit Arur Bilit*: Carved drawing depicted a human figure in spread-eagle position